

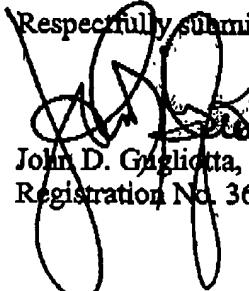
REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Before entry of the present amendment, Claims 1-17 were pending, and claims 6-10 were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form. Currently, claims 1-5 have been canceled without prejudice, and all remaining claims are dependent on claim 6, as amended in independent form.

Therefore, in view of foregoing amendments and clarifications, the applicant submits that allowance of the present application and all remaining claims, as amended, is in order and a formal Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,


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